

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

Ottawa-Kent (OK) Conference Districts

WHEREAS, the OK conference school districts are recognized as committed advocates for high school athletic equity as they demonstrate their support of the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee and the Kent ISD by embracing the rules and regulations as required by the United States Department of Justice and the Office of Civil Rights; and

WHEREAS, the OK Conference districts' athletic leaders are committed to securing athletic equity within their districts by providing consistent Title IX reporting to the Kent ISD via annual compliance data, student interest surveys every three years, and a five-year Gender Equity Compliance Audit developed in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the OK Conference school districts, Title IX coordinators, and athletic directors annually provide and distribute comparative athletic participation data to the Kent ISD as well as parents and athletes, in an effort to bring increased attention and resources toward ensuring that gender equity becomes a reality in terms of equitable treatment and support for boys and girls as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and

WHEREAS, the creation and implementation of the first-ever Gender Equity Compliance Audit, Year 2007-2008, within the State of Michigan by members of the OK Conference Athletic Committee and district volunteers, stands as evidence of the commitment to athletic equity that defines the OK Conference athletic program; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education commends the outstanding efforts of equity leadership by the superintendents of the OK Conference for recognizing the legal requirements of every school district to accommodate the interests and abilities of their high school athletes, and applauds the leadership and direction of Kent ISD, in cooperation with Communities For Equity, in expediting full compliance measures within all districts by creating reporting requirements, documentation, and activity calendars beginning in Year 2006; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education recognize the OK Conference school districts as "leaders of equity" in their steadfast commitment toward fairness in athletics by creating a system that promotes gender equity, Title IX compliance, and serve as a model for all Michigan school districts to emulate.



Adopted September 9, 2008

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction